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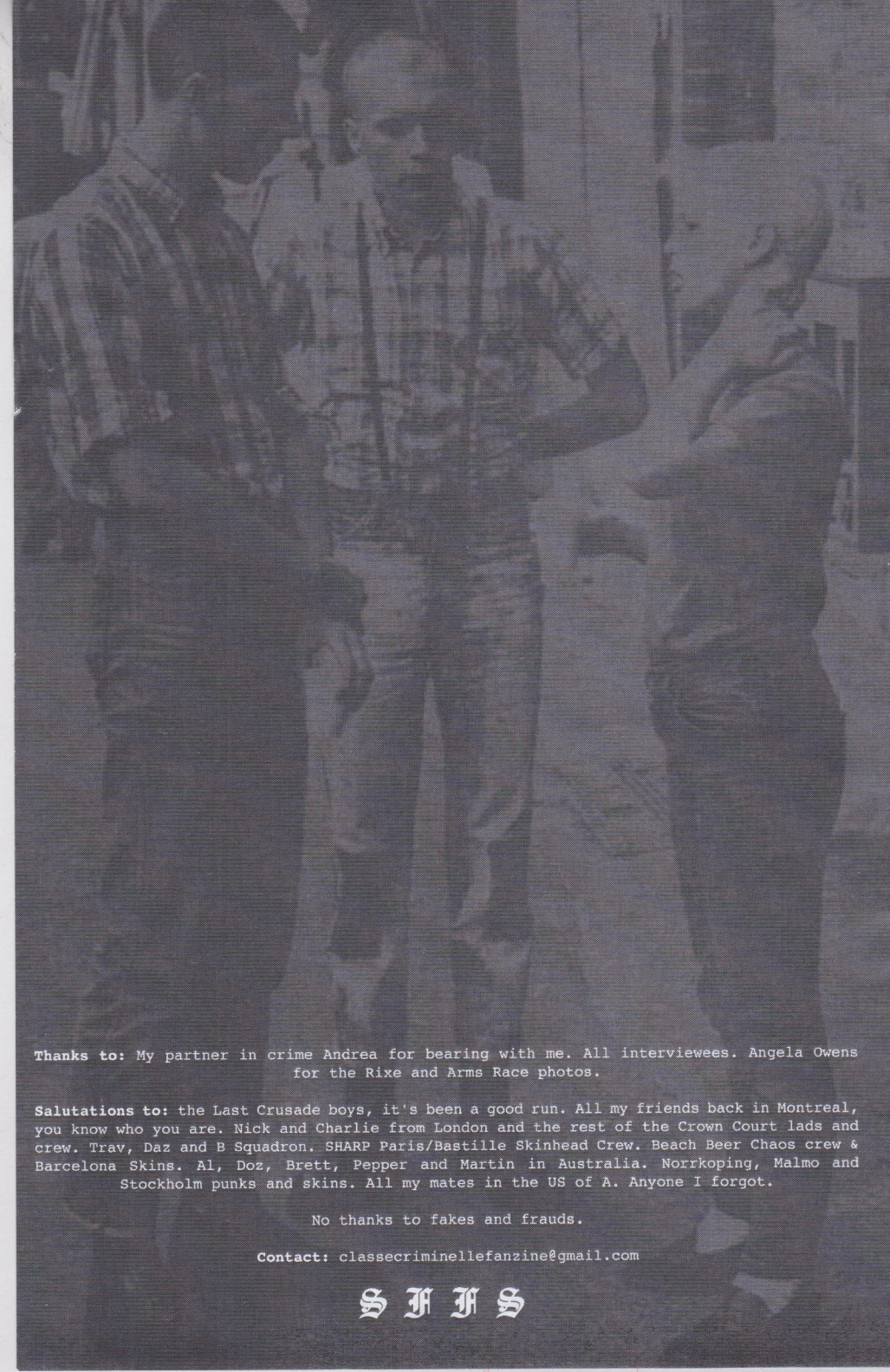
SUBCULTURE FANZINE 3531E ONE SPRING/SUMMER 2016



ARMS RACE

HIRED
GOONS

SCAB
COMA



Thanks to: My partner in crime Andrea for bearing with me. All interviewees. Angela Owens for the Rixe and Arms Race photos.

Salutations to: the Last Crusade boys, it's been a good run. All my friends back in Montreal, you know who you are. Nick and Charlie from London and the rest of the Crown Court lads and crew. Trav, Daz and B Squadron. SHARP Paris/Bastille Skinhead Crew. Beach Beer Chaos crew & Barcelona Skins. Al, Doz, Brett, Pepper and Martin in Australia. Norrkoping, Malmo and Stockholm punks and skins. All my mates in the US of A. Anyone I forgot.

No thanks to fakes and frauds.

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S H H S



Merci de prendre le temps de répondre les gars. On va commencer par la question classique, pouvez vous présenter les membres du groupe, vos occupations et comment le groupe s'est formé? Fred à la guitare et au chant, cartographe forestier. Joe à la basse, débardeur dans le port de Québec et Cam à la batterie, opérateur dans une fonderie. Le groupe s'est formé voilà environ six ans dans le quartier Limoilou de Québec, quand notre ami Marco (ancien guitariste du groupe) a appelé Joe parce qu'il cherchait un bassiste. Joe s'est acheté une basse et a commencé à jouer de la basse avec le groupe qui était composé alors de Marco, Lucas (autre ex-membre) et Cam. Fred a joint le groupe plus tard comme chanteur. Fred et Cam viennent du défunt band Docksider Hookers et de Buddha Bulldozer. Nous avons décidé de former un groupe Oi! Franco car il n'en avait pas vraiment dans notre ville. Tous les groupes que l'on connaissait, chantaient en anglais. Nous voulions aussi faire de la Oi! pure et dure, ce qui est plutôt rare au Québec dans notre scène.

Vous êtes un des rares groupes Oi! du Québec qui chantent en Français, est-ce que c'est par choix conscient que vous écrivez des paroles en Français ou ça a simplement adonné comme ça? C'est plutôt par choix conscient. On voulait se différencier des autres groupes qui chantaient en Anglais. De plus, c'est beaucoup plus naturel pour nous d'écrire des paroles en français puisque c'est notre langue maternelle. On peut donc s'exprimer plus facilement.

Parlez nous de vos influences générales un peu. Est-ce qu'il y'a des groupes en particulier qui vous ont influencés?

Nous sommes influencés par la Oi! Anglaise et Française des années 80, le punk Britannique, la Oi! Américaine des années 90 et le hardcore 80's. Les groupes qui nous ont le plus influencés sont The Templars, The Clichés, le début de Perkele, Antisocial, Crux et toute la vague des groupes Français des années 80 et 90.

Thank you for taking the time to answer, lads. We'll start with a classic question, could you introduce yourselves, what you do for a living and how the band started?

Fred on guitar and vocals, forest cartographer. Joe on bass, longshoreman at the Quebec City port and Cam on drums, operator in a foundry. The band started about six years ago in the Limoilou neighborhood of Quebec City, when our mate Marco (former guitar player) called Joe up as he was looking for a bass player. Joe then bought a bass and started playing with the band who was then made up of Marco, Lucas (other former member) and Cam. Fred later joined the band on vocals. Fred and Cam also played in Docksider Hookers and currently play in Buddha Bulldozer. We decided to start a French-singing Oi! band as there weren't really any in our city. Every band we knew sang in English. We also wanted to do a rough-and-tough proper Oi! band, which is quite a rarity in the Quebec scene.

You're one of the few Oi! bands from Quebec that sing in French. Was it a conscious decision to write lyrics in French or did it simply come out like that?

It was a rather conscious choice. We wanted to stand out from other bands that sang in English. Not to mention it's much more natural for us to write lyrics in French as it is our mother tongue. It makes it easier to express ourselves.

Tell us a bit about your main influences. Are there any bands in particular that influenced you?

We're influenced by 80's French and English Oi!, British punk, 90's American Oi! and 80's Hardcore. The bands that influenced us the most are The Templars, The Clichés, early Perkele, Antisocial, Crux and the whole wave of 80's and 90's French Oi!.

Les scènes skinhead à Montréal et Québec ont une réputation pour être parmi les plus politisées (de gauche à droite) non seulement en Amérique du Nord mais aussi dans le reste du monde. Pour ceux qui ne sont pas trop au courant, pourriez vous expliquer un peu le contexte et où vous vous situez là dedans? Effectivement, La scène au Québec est très politisée. Premièrement à Québec, il n'y a plus vraiment de scène pour nous. La scène à Montréal est très divisée pour des histoires de politique. Nous on fait de notre mieux pour ne pas avoir d'étiquette, mais c'est pas évident. On ne veut pas jouer pour n'importe qui non plus et on choisit nos concerts de sorte qu'il n'y ait aucun mouvement politique rattaché au concert. En fait, on fait de la musique pour avoir du plaisir, et non pour faire de la politique. Nous croyons que la musique Oi!/punk est un moyen d'expression qui peut parfois véhiculer un message qui ne plaît pas à tout le monde. En autant que ça ne tombe pas dans le racisme ou dans l'extrémisme.

Vous avez un 7" intitulé "Navigateurs" qui sort bientôt chez Contra Records, pouvez vous nous parler des thèmes abordés et des différences avec le titre précédent? Comment avez vous commencés à être impliqués avec Contra?

Nous abordons plein de thèmes différents comme la corruption, la vie de banlieusard, l'histoire et les grandes gueules (chanson basée sur Big Mouth de Gorilla Biscuits), c'est assez varié et faut pas prendre les sujets trop au sérieux. Il est différent du premier EP car il est mieux enregistré et mieux équipé aussi au niveau des instruments. Les chansons sont un peu plus raffinées au niveau musical et des paroles. Pour Contra, c'est Joe qui a envoyé quelques chansons à différents labels, les gars de Contra ont bien aimé et depuis ils nous supportent dans nos projets.

Vous faites partie de l'affiche du festival "Oi! The St. Patrick's Weekend" à Montréal en Mars prochain, en compagnie de Lion's Law, The Strike et Bad Co. Project entre autres. Avez-vous hâte? Quelles attentes avez vous par rapport au festival?

Oui nous avons très hâte et on s'attend à un gros party. Ce sera l'occasion aussi de nous faire connaître par plus de monde car on ne joue pas souvent, et aussi vendre de la merch haha! On n'a pas vraiment la chance de voir et de jouer avec des bands Européens et même Américains au Québec, donc nous sommes contents de faire parti du lineup de cette année! On s'attend à boire beaucoup de bières haha!

The skinhead scenes in Montreal and Quebec City have a reputation for being one of the most politicized (from left to right), not only within North America but all over the world as well. For those who aren't too clued up, could you explain the situation and where you guys stand in all of that?

Indeed, the scene in Quebec is very politicized. First and foremost, in Quebec City, there isn't much of a scene left for us. As for Montreal the scene is very divided for political reasons. We try our hardest not to have a label, but it's not always easy. But we don't want to play for just anyone, and we pick and choose our gigs to ensure there isn't any political affiliation associated with the concert. We play music to have fun, not to do politics. We believe that Oi! and punk is a means of expression that can sometimes carry a message which doesn't always appeal to everyone. So long as it doesn't fall into racism or extremism.

You've got a 7" called "Navigateurs" coming out soon on Contra Records, could you talk to us about the themes approached on the record as well as the differences with the previous record? How did you start being involved with Contra?

We approach plenty of different themes like corruption, life in the suburbs, history, and big mouths (inspired by Gorilla Biscuits' Big Mouth), it's quite varied and people shouldn't take the topics too seriously. It's different to our first EP as the production is better and better equipped in terms of instruments. Our songs are a little more refined in terms of music and lyrics. For Contra, it's Joe who sent a few songs to different labels, the Contra lads liked them and have been supporting us in our projects since then.

You guys are playing the "Oi! the St. Patrick's Weekend" festival in Montreal in March, along with Lion's Law, The Strike and Bad Co. Project amongst others. Are you looking forward to it? What expectations do you have for the festival?

Yeah we can't wait and we expect a big party. It'll also be a good opportunity to get us known by more people since we don't play often, and also to sell merch haha! We don't really have the opportunity to see and play with European or even American bands in Quebec, so we're stoked to be part of the lineup this year! We expect to drink a lot of beer haha!



À quels endroits aimeriez vous jouer dans le futur? Est-ce qu'il y a des bands en particulier avec qui vous aimeriez jouer? USA et définitivement l'Europe, on a plein d'invitations mais c'est compliqué pour nous d'organiser une tournée à cause de nos jobs et de nos familles. Nous sommes supposé aller bientôt à Philadelphie pour jouer avec nos amis de Thunder And Glory. Les gars de Contra nous attendent en Allemagne et nous espérons y aller bientôt. Nous aimerions jouer avec tout les groupes que l'on aime et ils seraient trop long de les nommer. (si vous avez des opportunités pour nous contactez nous sur notre Facebook!)

Fred et Cam: vous faites également partie du groupe Buddha Bulldozer. Est-ce qu'il y'a des nouvelles dans ce camp-là?

On vient de réintégrer un ancien guitariste, alors on essaie de pratiquer le plus possible pour revenir sur scène. Le temps manque et c'est pas évident de pratiquer régulièrement. On devrait être prêt à faire des shows vers la fin 2016 si tout va bien avec du nouveau matériel aussi.

Pouvez vous nous décrire des aspects qui vous plait et qui vous plait moins à propos de la scene skinhead en 2016? Vous êtes tous impliqués dans la scène depuis un bout, quels changements avez vous vu au fil des années?

On aime bien les nouveaux groupes du UK et de la France. Ils ont un son très rafraichissant. On aime bien la nouvelle scène, comme on aime la vieille. On est amoureux de la Oi! La scène n'a jamais été aussi vivante de nos jours avec pleins de nouveaux bands et de vieux bands qui se reforment, c'est très intéressant. Les réseaux sociaux ont contribué beaucoup à faire découvrir de nouveaux bands et à la propagation du style de musique. En même temps ça l'a amené tellement de poseurs et de plastic skinheads, c'est pathétique! Et ça c'est sans compter le nombre incalculable de PC warriors haha!

On termine aussi avec une question classique, nommez vos 5 chansons Oi!/punk préférées! Merci d'avoir répondu, je vous laisse le mot de la fin!

Surveillez la sortie très bientôt de notre deuxième EP sur Contra Records et aussi le split avec Thunder And Glory qui sortira par la suite. Pour les sorties et les projets suivez nous sur Facebook! Merci Karl et à tous ceux qui nous supportent! Oi!

What places would you like to play in the future? Are there any bands in particular with whom you'd like to play?

USA and definitely Europe, we recieved plenty of invitations but it's hard for us to organise a tour because of our jobs and families. We are supposed to go down to Philadelphia soon to play with our mates in Thunder And Glory. The Contra lads are expecting us in Germany and we hope to go there soon. We would like to play with every band we like, and it would be way too long to name them all. (if you've got any opportunities for us hit us up on our Facebook!)

Fred and Cam: you are also in another band called Buddha Bulldozer. Any news to report?

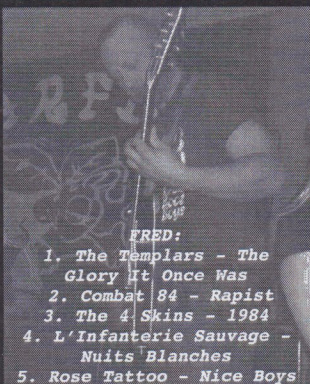
We just reintegrated our old guitar player to the band, so we try to practice as much as possible to play live again soon. Time is an issue though, it's not easy to practice regularly. We should be ready to play shows again towards the end of 2016 if all goes well, with new songs too.

Can you tell us about some of the aspects you like and dislike about the skinhead scene in 2016? You guys have all been around for a while, what changes have you seen over the years?

We like the new UK and French bands a lot. They have a very refreshing sound. We like the new scene as much as the old scene. We are in love with Oi! The scene has never been alive as it is now, with loads of new bands as well as old bands reuniting, it's very interesting. Social networks have a big contribution in making people discover new bands and spreading the music. At the same time it brought forth so many poseurs and plastic skinheads, it's pathetic! Not to mention the countless PC warriors haha!

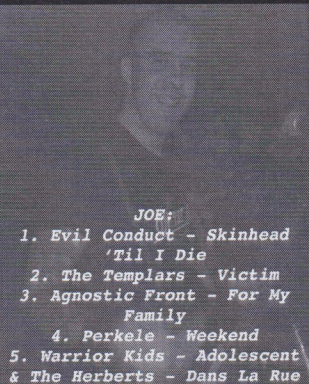
Let's wrap up with some more classic questions, can you name your 5 favourite Oi!/punk songs? Cheers for the answers lads, I'll leave you with the last words!

Make sure to keep your eye out for our second EP out soon on Contra Records, as well as the split with Thunder And Glory which will soon follow. For release dates and info follow us on Facebook! Thanks Karl and all of those who support us! Oi!



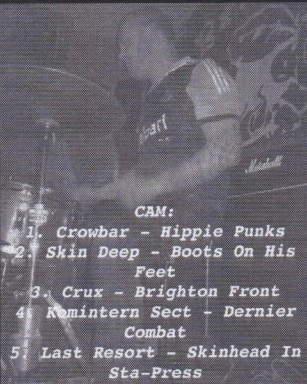
FRED:

1. The Templars - The Glory It Once Was
2. Combat 84 - Rapist
3. The 4 Skins - 1984
4. L'Infanterie Sauvage - Nuits Blanches
5. Rose Tattoo - Nice Boys



JOE:

1. Evil Conduct - Skinhead 'Til I Die
2. The Templars - Victim
3. Agnostic Front - For My Family
4. Perkele - Weekend
5. Warrior Kids - Adolescent & The Herberts - Dans La Rue



CAM:

1. Crowbar - Hippie Punks
2. Skin Deep - Boots On His Feet
3. Crux - Brighton Front
4. Romintern Sect - Dernier Combat
5. Last Resort - Skinhead In Sta-Press

HIRED GOONS

Alright KD, thanks for taking the time to answer. Give us a few lines to introduce yourself, what you do for a living, any leisurely activities you enjoy partaking in and other bits of info you think might be relevant to this interview.

I'm Kevin, I'm a masonry apprentice in TO and in my free time I eat a lot and sleep a lot. I'm also really interested in clothing. Just picked up Ametora from the library.

How did HIRED GOONS start? I know you've been going for a few years now I.E. since before skinhead was a popular thing in HC again. What was the motivation behind going for a Oi/HC hybrid and how do you come up with songs?

Sam (our guitarist) had his other band go on a lil hiatus so he and I got together to use some riffs I had thought of. There was no plan on how we were going to sound, it's just how it happened. I can't write anything else. I hum a riff into my phone, show it to Sam, then we write a song. It's a very simple process.

It seems there has been a sort of revolving door of members coming in and out of the band, how many member changes have you had now?

The two dudes on the first demo cover were out of the band before those covers had even been printed. We've had a total of 10 members. We've played 12 shows.



So far you've released a two-part demo in 2013, both parts which were combined on a compilation LP by Lionheart Records. How was it dealing with them and do you intend to release any new material in the foreseeable future?

Lionheart was pretty simple but he owes us five Lovely Lads demo LPs and I find it a bit suspicious that the pressing plant kept "accidentally" pressing more copies and sending it to him. We also got a few copies of the Boxcutter Boys test presses instead of our own LPs. I guess that makes them rare HG LPs. I intend to have a single released in the future. Next month? Next year? Next century? Who knows. The future.

You lot played the last ever gig at infamous TO venue S.H.I.B.G.B's (I've never been unfortunately) can you give me a quick run down of the gig from what you can remember and also give me your thoughts on the venue as a whole?

Sheebs was a great venue. I wish the stage was better. I drank a half Mickey of CC, a 40 of OE, and two tall boys of PBR before our set (which was the fifth set, so about 2 hours into the show) so I do not remember much except that I had fun. Sam couldn't make it so we had our friend Lia play keys instead. Here To Stay, Mania, Generation. That was the entire set list. It was recorded. It'll be on a tape maybe?

You've not been known to play all that much live but the two times I've seen you were at Not Dead Yet 2014 and 2015, any aspirations for going for the three-peat this year? Also I'm pretty sure I've seen you around the fest every year I've been. I know it's early yet but have you got any expectations or hopes for what this year will bring?

I don't know if we will play any shows this year. We are basically done. I hope I see my west coast friends and maybe some Euro pals.

Tell me your best record score and your best clobber score.

I've never had a good record score. I own a lot of really cool coats. Camel Gloverall, Stone Baracuta, M51 parka from the early 70's... All thrifted.

I'm an idiot and can't come up with good questions so here's the last one: if all of CRO-MAGS and SHEER TERROR circa 1986 got in a gang fight who would win and why?

Mags would win. They just would.

R E V I E W S

if you want your stuff reviewed send it over to classecriminellefanzine@gmail.com

Criminal - Amongst The Thugs

Black Metal-tinted Oi! from LA. It's a hard combination to pull off and they do without a hitch. I think this will be a grower on some people, and some might definitely hate it but I think it's awesome. Definitely one of my favourites of this year so far.

Falcata - S/T

This is Joao from Faccão Opposta's new band, and their debut EP is definitely a killer one. Dark and melodic songs with rough vocals, kind of reminds me of Camera Silens with a touch of Another Man's Poison. Clean but raw production coupled with catchy guitar leads definitely makes this worthy of attention.

Hostile Minds - No Innocence

This is pure class! The one man project of Tom from Arch Rivals. Reminds me of Templars and Anti Heros a lot. Raw stripped down production and hard vocals. I'll be listening to this on repeat for the next few months! All three songs are killer but Same Old Shit is the winner for me.

King Cans - Demo

Hard hitting oi!/street punk from my hometown of Montreal. Raspy harsh vocals, straight to the point lyrics and Rose Tattoo-esque guitar leads from Dan of Hold A Grudge fame brings this one together perfectly. You Think You Belong With Us is my favourite.

Komintern Sect - D'Une Meme Voix

Honestly, I'm usually not that crazy about bands getting back together and putting a new record out because it usually sucks. However this right here is a notable exception. It honestly sounds like they picked up where they left off 30 years ago. Five great songs and a Camera Silens cover with Benoit from CS featured for good measure.

Occupation - Occupation 2016

Mid tempo Oi!/punk band out of Moscow. The vocals aren't what I expected but sound pretty cool. It sounds like there is a flute in one of the songs, that's a bit peculiar. I'd say this is a mix between Bohse Onkels and 86 Mentality. Worth a good few listens for sure.

Oldfashioned Ideas - Another Side To Every Story

Catchy melodic punk rock from Malmo, Sweden. We played a gig with them and The Manics in Norrköping, great bunch of lads. Very well produced, I'm usually a fan of more rough around the edges production but this suits the style well. Northern Nights is a great tune. Will for sure be listening to this a lot!

Queensbury Rules - Bristol Elite

This is the first LP from the Bristol based Oi! band. Musically it's closer to 90's British Oi! such as Retaliator, with heavy guitars and solid almost metal-like leads. Lyrically it's pretty across the board, ranging from the typical skinhead topics like working class life, friendship etc. to more historical themes especially in Rorke's Drift and Return To Agincourt. Good stuff boys.

Para Elite - Push On

Debut LP from the American Oi! outfit from SoCal. The tunes are there for the most part musically but the production is a bit too clean for me, and also the fact that there only seems to be one guitar track makes it sound a bit thin. The lyrics aren't really my cup of tea either.

The Rival Mob - If You Listen To Fools...

New tape from the Boston lot. I'm surprised they're still a band after all this time considering the millions of other bands they play in. It starts with some weird 70's style intro, but the songs are good and classic Rival Mob style. I'm glad it doesn't sound as flat as the LP. The Rampage cover is a nice touch.

Scab Coma - Navigateurs

French Oi! from Quebec City. Clean, raw guitars and good basslines bring to mind early Templars and The Cliches. Standard skinhead fare lyrics about corrupt politicians and internet loud mouths (sure seems to be a lot of them lately...) I reckon this is quite a high step up from their great self titled EP.

Sweet FA - Live By The Sword

I was a big fan of the demo and the Philly boot boys have just put out this class follow up in the form of an EP. R'N'R influenced American Oi! not unlike The Templars, Anti Heroes or Arresting Officers (without the shit WP lyrics that is). Bar chords and walking bass lines, exactly what I like in any Oi! band. I've played this a lot and you should too!

ARMS RACE



Alright mate, for those who don't know you and your band can you give a quick introduction of who you are and what you do, and if you could give me a background of how the band started etc.

My name's Nick, I sing in Arms Race and do the lyrics. Myself, Ola and Pat, along with our old drummer, Oli, started the band back at the tail end of 2012 because we wanted to do a band that sounded somewhere between the United Blood 7", Battle Scarred LP and the Partisans singles. British and East Coast USA punk 82-86. That's our influences.

Last year you lot did a US tour with your other band Violent Reaction, one year after the first and successful British Invasion of the Americas with VR and The Flex. What was it like the second time around? Any interesting anecdotes or shehanigans you can publicly acknowledge?

Hard to compare the two, the first one was so long and covered so much ground, honestly one of the wildest experiences of my life. This second time around was fucking great but only a fraction of the length. Damaged city fest was wild for us. We played second to last at the after show and the room was packed. Too tight to mosh. Just vibrate. Like atoms.

Your previous releases include a 7" called Gotta Get Out on Quality Control, a label conveniently operated by fellow member and badass axewoman Ola, as well as a tape with some new songs. When can we expect the new record and who's putting it out? What tends to be your Modus Operandi when it comes time to write and record music and lyrics?

We also did a demo in 2013, but yeah. Lp is gonna be out early 2016. Quality Control will probably do it again, I dunno hahaha we haven't even talked about it. Maybe painkiller will want to do it in the USA or maybe CC and Cooch have realised we don't know what the fuck we are doing. As for writing I just write about shit that frustrates me. I'm not trying to push any specific agenda, just singing about the same problems every one faces, like when your Oyster card only has 20p to cap but the machine only takes card so you end up having to waste a fiver on it.



Your band is an eclectic composition of the best (yourself and Charlie) and worst (Pimmy) dressed people in UKHC. Do you reckon such a superficial observation might also allude to any strong differences in personality and general taste between members and how has such a broad field of influences affected the way your band sounds?

First off, this is the best question we have EVER been asked. Yeah well me and Charlie are sartorial gods. The proverbial shit, but Pimmys the shit too. Only he's a different kind of shit. Me and Charlie are one of those turds you have when you've struck the balance between protein and fibre perfectly and it comes out smooth and requires little wiping. Tom's that kind of shit that's a little rougher around the edges. Maybe it leaves your bum a little sore, maybe there's a little blood when you clean up, but ultimately your just glad it ain't runny and won't leave your undergarments stained. Feel me? Me and Charlie are skinheads and Tom isn't. He knows the ins and outs of Angus Young's guitar tone, I don't. Variety is the spice of life and me and Pimmy don't agree on a lot of shit but he's one of my best mates. Musically, I dunno, me and Charlie like more oi! than anyone else in the band. We all like the same hardcore though.

Can you give me an overview of what other musical projects you currently have it on? I'm sure the demographic I'm going for with this rag could do with some info and news about CROWN COURT, if you could oblige.

Yeah, as well as Arms Race I play drums in Violent Reaction with Tom and Charlie and bass in Crown Court with Charlie. Me and Charlie do every band together. We used to work together too. Put simply we are ying and yang, he's the more interesting social apt version though. There is no news in Crown Court camp, we are a band struggling under the weight of outside expectations, burdened by the heavy chains that come with our position as the darlings of the Oi! scene.

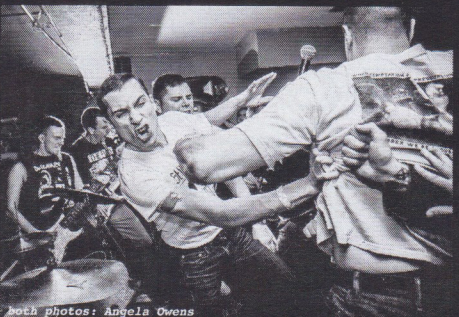
Just kidding, we're just disorganised.

Over recent years I've noticed, as I'm sure you have, a certain flirtation from people in the hardcore scene with elements of the skinhead cult, adopting bits and pieces of the subculture without actually taking on the full denomination, in a way that can perhaps be seen as not assuming what they actually are when questioned by certain people and to me looks like appropriating things from a scene they've got no real connection or to. What are your thoughts on that?

Yeah I don't know, whatever. Hardcore has a tendency to appropriate from everything, a few years ago it was metal shit. The problem, if there is one, isn't kids getting into skinhead shit or becoming skinheads through hardcore (that's a legitimate gateway and in the North American context is probably the most logical route, given the history of the cult's later emergence on the other side of the Atlantic) it's not being proud of the fact they are hardcore kids. Hardcore rules (hated youth) I'm rambling but yeah basically, people shouldn't be melts and if they want to be skinheads that's cool but yeah dipping your toes in as-and-when is a bit shit. That's not really an answer. Ha.

Conversely, there are some members of the skinhead scene who would dispute the legitimacy of someone with cropped hair and smart clothes also playing in straight edge bands and going to hardcore shows as well as Oi gigs and reggae/soul do's. Such claims can easily be discredited by both your and my involvement in our respective Oi! bands but I was wondering what your thoughts were on that as well.

Everyone's got a fucking opinion on something or other. Listen, Youth Of Today is fucking sick, The Strike is fucking sick, and when your heart is broken nothing makes more sense than listening to The Tartans. I will continue to love Rocksteady, Oi! and Hardcore and go to events of all three genres as and when I choose. If some old cunt wants to talk down to me and state the obvious fact that no one at the Twisted Wheel in 1970 liked the Lower East Side Crew 7" I couldn't give a fuck. Times change, all three musical forms and much more have a connection to skinhead at this point in time and if people want to deny the legitimacy of punk they are denying the thread which has enabled skinhead's longevity. They are advocating for some weird, retrograde, revivalist culture that I want no part of.



both photos: Angela Owens



You've recently been joined on bass by Nicky Rat from Belgium who took over my old room in the Leeds Straight Edge HQ. Can you tell us how he wended up joining?

Pat's schedule was a little too busy as he just started doing a PhD cos he's a smart fucker. Nick had just moved over to the UK and he's been our don for years now. Nick was one of the first people from outside the UK who got behind the NWOBHC and he's a solid bass player so it made sense to have him join.

Name your favourite 7"s and LP's.

7"s:

Agnostic Front - United Blood

Antidote - Thou Shalt Not Kill

Nabat - Laida Bologna

Plastic Surgery - Rivolta

L'Infanterie Sauvage - Chansons À Boire

LP's:

Agnostic Front - Victim in Pain

Templars - The Return of Jacques De Molay

Rose Tattoo - S/T

4 Skins - The Good The Bad And The 4 Skins

Red Alert - In Britain

What's the best place to get a kebab in London?

Any other food spots you want to recommend?

For the best kebab in London go to "Best kebab" in Stoke Newington. RIP Marine Ices pizzeria in Camden you were the best pizza spot. On that note let me talk about pizza and London. I was born in St Thomas hospital in Lambeth, South London. My family is Italian. Between the ages 0-15 I lived across South London: Kenington, Streatham and Thornton Heath, before my family moved to the suburbs of zone 5, Greater London. I live in East London now. Anyways, eating at Marine Ices was always part of the joy of travelling to North London. It came under new management last couple of years but before that, eating there was always part of the wonder of going north of the river, a journey which at that age felt like you were travelling to a different world. There, you could buy an affordable pizza at a place that was frequented by movie stars and regular people alike. Because it was good. And run by Italians. These new chain pizza spots peddling sourdough pizza like it's some kind of whacky innovation (it's a Neapolitan thing) and incorporating a bougie coffee house layout need to perish. You're all that's wrong with London.

I've got nothing else, feel free to have the Final Word. Shout outs etc Move back you tall fucker.



Salut Tom, merci de m'accorder le temps de faire l'entrevue. Pour commencer peux-tu nous parler des débuts de Rixe, comment vous vous êtes formés, les premiers concerts etc?

Salut Karl ! On a commencé Rixe en juillet 2014. Je venais de rentrer d'un séjour de 5 mois en Argentine et j'avais décidé de m'installer à Paris. Je voulais bouger ici parce que je faisais de la batterie pour HardXTimes et j'avais en tête de former un nouveau groupe, et il y avait plus de monde sur Paris pour former un groupe de Oi ! Wattie que je connaissais déjà m'a appris que Max cherchait à former un groupe, qu'il avait déjà des morceaux. On s'est capté et le groupe a commencé comme ça. On a fait notre premier concert quelques mois plus tard en décembre aux Mains d'Oeuvre à Saint-Ouen (banlieue parisienne) avec Syndrome 81, Hard Skin et R.A.S., 10 minutes de set pour 4 titres ! Tu me diras c'est tout juste le double maintenant hahaha

Inutile de dire que depuis la sortie de Coups Et Blessures sur La Vida Es Un Mus votre nom s'est répandu beaucoup dans les scènes punk, oi ! et hardcore, beaucoup de gens que je connais qui ne sont généralement pas fans de Oi ! m'ont dit qu'ils ont adoré le disque.

Vous attendiez-vous à une telle réaction?

A ce point-là, franchement non ! Je pense que c'est dû aux contacts de Max et au label pour le côté punk/hardcore ainsi qu'au fait que Wattie joue avec nous pour le côté Oi !

Hi Tom, thanks for taking the time to do this interview. To start things off can you tell me about the beginnings of Rixe, how did you get together, first gigs etc?

Hey Karl! We started Rixe in July 2014. I had just come back from spending 5 months in Argentina and I decided to move to Paris. I played drums in HardXTimes and I wanted to start a new band, and there were many more people who were keen to start an Oi ! band. Wattie whom I already knew told me that Max was looking to start a band and that he already had songs. So we met and that's how it all started. We played our first gig a few months later in December at Mains d'Oeuvre in Saint-Ouen (Paris suburbs) with Syndrome 81, Hard Skin and R.A.S. 10 minutes and 4 songs! Mind you our set now is barely double that haha!

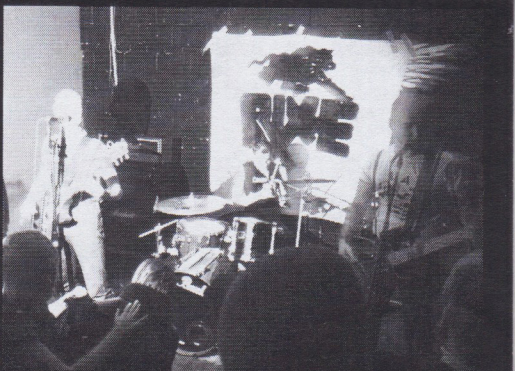
Needless to say, since Coups Et Blessures came out on La Vida Es Un Mus your name spread like wildfire across the punk, oi ! and hardcore scenes, many people I know who usually don't like Oi ! told me they loved the record. Did you expect such a reaction? Honestly, not to that extent! I reckon it has to do with Max's contacts as well as the label for the punk/hardcore side of things and also due to the fact that Wattie plays with us for the Oi ! side of things.

Vous avez déjà plusieurs concerts un peu partout derrière vous, dont un weekend de trois dates en Angleterre et une tournée en Amérique du Nord, comment furent les réactions? Ça doit faire bizarre de voir des gens "chanter" les paroles alors qu'ils ne connaissent aucun mot de Français! (mis a part a Montréal bien sur)

A chaque fois ça s'est très bien déroulé! Ça fait plaisir de voir qu'un groupe qui "chante" en Français est reconnu à l'étranger. Ça m'a permis de voyager énormément et c'est une expérience unique que ne pensais pas vivre un jour. En tout l'année dernière j'ai fait 55 concerts côté scène (si tu comptes les autres groupes dans lesquels je joue), une moyenne d'un par semaine!!!

A part les 4 titres sur votre EP vous avez aussi une nouvelle chanson, "À Contre-Courant" qui est sortie sur la compil d'Une Vie Pour Rien? intitulée "La Force Dans La Oi! vol. 2", que vous partagez avec Syndrome 81, Outreau et Traître. Outre vous quatre, il semble y avoir un renouveau de la scène Oi!/punk en France un peu comme les jours de gloire de Chaos Productions il y a plus de 30 ans. On peut aussi citer d'autres récents groupes comme Zone Infinie et Coupe-Gorge par exemple. A quoi attribuez-tu l'esprit de créativité qui incite tant a faire de nouveaux groupes?

Tous les groupes que tu cites ne sont pas réellement Oi! mais de très bonne facture. Je suis en bon termes avec Outreau, Coupe-Gorge et Syndrome 81 avec qui nous avons déjà joué, je n'ai toujours pas vu ni Traître ni Zone Infinie mais ces derniers passent bientôt à Paris (18 mars). La scène Oi! en France est moribonde depuis longtemps je pense, à l'étranger ça dépend. Pour autant il y a de temps en temps de nouvelles vagues de groupes qui se forment et génèrent une dynamique, un nouveau public etc, ce qui est très sain. Je pense que plus des gens se motivent à former des groupes qui tournent, plus d'autres groupes vont se créer, logique non? D'autres nouveaux groupes se sont formés, on verra ce que ça donne, je peux te citer Les Grands Ducs ou Braumure et d'autres à venir...



You've already got a few gigs all over the place behind your belts, a three-gig weekend tour in England and a North American tour amongst them. How were people's reactions? It must be weird seeing people "singalong" to the songs considering most of them don't know a single word of French! (except in Montreal of course)

It went well every time! It's really cool to see that a band which "sings" in French has recognition in other places. It allowed me to travel a lot and it's a unique experience that I never thought I could live. In total last year I played 55 gigs (including the other bands I play in), an average of over one a week!!!

Other than the four songs on the EP you've also got a new track, "À Contre-Courant" which came out on the 7" comp that Une Vie Pour Rien? put out called "La Force Dans La Oi! vol. 2", which you are sharing with Syndrome 81, Outreau and Traître. Other than the four of you, there seems to be some sort of revival of the Oi!/punk scene reminiscent of Chaos Productions' glory days over 30 years ago. We can cite other newer bands such as Zone Infinie and Coupe-Gorge as good examples. To what would you attribute this spirit of creativity that motivates so many to make new bands?

All the bands you just mentioned aren't really Oi! bands but are definitely top shelf. I'm in good terms with Outreau, Coupe-Gorge and Syndrome 81 with whom we've already played. I still haven't seen Traître or Zone Infinie but they're playing Paris soon (18th of March). The Oi! scene in France has been on it's last legs for a while I reckon. As for elsewhere it depends I guess. But from time to time there are indeed new waves of bands cropping up which generates a good dynamic, a new audience etc. which is very healthy. I reckon the more people motivate themselves to do new bands that tour, the more other bands will follow suit, logic right? Some other new bands have formed recently, we will see how that goes. I can cite Les Grands Ducs, Braumure and others to come...



COUPS ET BLESSURES

Plus particulièrement à Paris il y a bien sur une grande présence du SHARP et il semble y avoir bon nombre de jeunes skinheads impliqués dans la scène. Quand on (Last Crusade) y a joué avec vous et Secret Army j'étais carrément surpris de la réaction! Ça fait longtemps que ça bouge comme ça?

Alors oui je pense que le SHARP Paris est le seul vrai représentant du mouvement skin actif à Paris, et même si je ne suis pas SHARP je soutiens ce qu'ils font à 100%. Malheureusement l'asso BSC (Bastille Skinhead Crew) a eu des problèmes de salle, on ne peut plus vraiment organiser de concert à la Mécanique Ondulatoire alors il faut trouver d'autres lieux, c'est ce qui est en train de se faire en ce moment, et donc après une pause de quelques mois ça devrait reprendre de plus belle prochainement !

Dans les quelques fois que je vous ai vu en live, vous aviez joué quelques nouveaux morceaux, est-ce qu'un nouveau titre est en préparation?

Un deuxième 7" doit voir le jour en mars/avril, il s'appellera "Les Nerfs à Vif" et comptera 3 inédits dont Rapport de Force que nous avons mis en ligne il n'y a pas longtemps. Un 5ème pressage du premier devrait aussi voir le jour, avec une pochette verte cette fois !

Autre que Rixe tu sembles rester très occupé musicalement, en étant derrière la batterie pour The Sultans et Hard Times et ayant rejoint les légendaires Vicious Rumours. Ça doit être dur d'avoir du temps libre! Comment fais-tu pour gérer tout ça? Et comment en es-tu arrivé à faire partie des Vicious Rumours?

En réalité c'est surtout Rixe qui m'occupe ces derniers temps, HardXTimes ayant splitté et Sultans étant un groupe à distance avec qui je ne fais plus que quelques dates ici et là. J'ai réussi à me démerder pour faire des taffs qui donnent une certaine flexibilité pour pouvoir partir en tournée, traducteur chez moi, roadie. C'est vraiment galère et en ce moment je suis au chômage, mais c'est un choix de vie. Après cet été et les tournées qui sont annoncées je vais appuyer sur le bouton pause le temps de me stabiliser professionnellement ! Vicious Rumours c'est un plan que j'ai eu (encore !) par Wattie. John le bassiste original du groupe habite en région parisienne et cherchait un batteur pour répéter en vue de donner quelques concerts avec le chanteur d'origine qui s'appelle aussi John mais vit au Texas. On a répété ensemble la basse et batterie et on a vraiment sympathisé, puis on a répété avec Dave le guitariste (Superyob, Aceface, Resistance 77, Concrete Gods...) et on a joué à Londres avec East End Badoes (top lads !) et à Stockholm au PSK. Encore une expérience incroyable puisque j'écoutais ce groupe ado ! On devait enregistrer de nouveaux titres et faire d'autres concerts mais ça semble compromis... C'est très compliqué avec la distance. Comme avec Rixe on est plutôt bien rodés et qu'on fait pas mal de concerts, on répète occasionnellement et j'ai commencé un nouveau groupe avec qui on essaye de répéter une fois par semaine. Ça m'apporte un certain équilibre.

Avec The Sultans, les deux autres mecs sont basés en Hongrie si je ne me trompe pas? Peux-tu nous faire un petit historique du groupe?

En fait, ils sont Hongrois mais vivaient tous les deux à Dublin au même moment que moi, en 2009-2010. Ils jouaient avant dans Derkovbois et cherchaient un batteur pour monter un nouveau groupe, je me suis proposé après les avoir rencontré dans un pub et ça a bien collé ! Quand je suis rentré en France on a continué quelques temps, on a fait quelques concerts puis on a enregistré en Hongrie fin 2010. On a splitté 4 ans puis on s'est reformés, on a sorti le disque en CD puis en vinyle et on a fait une tournée en France (merci Bertel !). On a aussi rejoué en Irlande et à Hambourg, et on doit jouer à Moscou au MLM Fest le 2 avril, il y aura aussi Rixe et ça tombe le jour de mon anniversaire ! Pour un historique plus détaillé je t'invite ainsi que les lecteurs à lire le texte que j'ai rédigé pour l'insert du LP!

RIXE



LES NERFS

More specifically in Paris, there is of course a strong SHARP presence and there seems to be a lot of young skinheads involved in the scene. When we (Last Crusade) played there with you lot and Secret Army I was really surprised by the reaction!

Has it been going like that for a while?

I do believe that SHARP Paris is the only real flagbearer of the active skinhead movement in Paris, and although I'm not SHARP I support what they do 100%. Unfortunately the BSC (Bastille Skinhead Crew) who organises gigs are having venue problems, we can't really do gigs at La Mécanique Ondulatoire anymore so we need to find other venues, which is what is currently happening so after a few months' break it should start rolling again soon!

In the handful of times I've seen you play, you've played some new songs. Is there a new record on the way?

Our second 7" is due to come out in March/April, it's called "Les Nerfs À Vif" and will have three new songs including Rapport De Force which we put online recently. There's a 5th press of the first 7" coming out soon as well, this time with a green sleeve.

Other than with Rixe you seem to be pretty busy musically speaking, being behind the kit for The Sultans and Hard Times and having joined the legendary Vicious Rumours. It must be hard to have free time! How do you manage all of that? And how did you wind up joining Vicious Rumours?

In reality, Rixe takes up most of my time now as HardXTimes split up and The Sultans are a "long-distance" band with whom I only play a handful of dates here and there. I've found a way to find work that gives me some flexibility to go on tour, such as work-from-home traductor and roadie. It's a bit shit at the moment as I'm on the dole but it's a lifestyle choice that I've made. After this summer and the upcoming announced tours I'm gonna take a break to get my feet on the ground professionally! As for Vicious Rumours, it's (once again!) thanks to Wattie, who told me that John the original bass player lives in the Paris region and that he was looking for a drummer to do a few gigs with the original singer, also named John, who lives in Texas. We rehearsed together with just drums and bass and we got on really well, then we practiced with Dave the guitar player (Superyob, Aceface, Resistance 77, Concrete Gods...) and we played London with East End Badoes (top lads!) and in Stockholm for PSK festival. An incredible experience for sure, as I listened to them as a teenager! We were meant to record new songs and play more gigs but at the minute it's all up in the air... It's very complicated with all the distance involved. As for Rixe, we are pretty tight and play gigs quite often so we can afford to only practice occasionally. I've got a new band also, and we try to rehearse once a week. It brings me a balance of sorts.

With The Sultans, the other two guys are in Hungary if I'm not mistaken? Can you give me a bit of background on the band?

Actually, both are Hungarian but lived in Dublin at the same time as me, around 2009-2010. They used to play in Derkovbois and were looking for a drummer to start a new band. We met in a pub and got on really well so I suggested I join. When I moved back to France we kept going for a bit, we played a few gigs and recorded in Hungary in 2010. We split up for four years and got back together, put out the record on CD and then vinyl and toured France (thanks Bertel!) We also played in Ireland again as well as Hamburg, and we are scheduled to play MLM Fest in Moscow on the 2nd of April, Rixe are also playing and it's on my birthday! For a more detailed account of our history I invite you and the readers to read the write-up I've done for the insert of our LP!

XE

FS A VIF

Peux-tu me dire que serait ton concert ou festival de rêve, ou ça serait et quels groupes joueraient?

Le prochain PSK à Stockholm fin mars ! (ed.: dur de faire mieux en effet!) Et dans un autre registre le Nothing to Say Festival à Berlin en avril ! En réalité ça va te paraître bizarre mais je ne suis pas fan des festivals ni des "groupes de festival" si tu vois ce que je veux dire! Je préfère un bon vieux concert dans un rade avec des gens qui en veulent vraiment.

La France fut un des pays qui produit parmi les meilleurs groupes Oi!, des débuts à aujourd'hui. Nommes moi tes 5 albums/EP's de Oi! Française préférés.

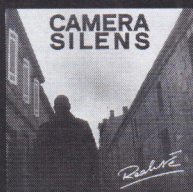
Voilà pour les albums et EP si je devais choisir là tout de suite. Mais en réalité j'écoute aussi énormément des vieilles démos avec un son pourri, des trucs supers obscurs etc.

Can you tell me what would be your dream gig/festival, where it would be and who would play?

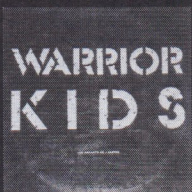
The upcoming PSK in Stockholm at the end of March! (ed.: definitely a good pick!) And in another style I'd say Nothing To Say festival in Berlin in April! I'll be honest, it might seem weird to you but I'm not a big fan of festivals or "festival bands" if you know what I mean! I prefer a good old gig in a dive with people that are mad for it and really want to be there.

France is known to have produced some of the best Oi! bands from the beginnings to today. Tell me what are your 5 favourite French Oi! EP's/Albums.

Here's the EP's and albums I'd pick if I had to pick right this second. In reality I also listen to loads of old demos with shitty sound, super obscure stuff etc.



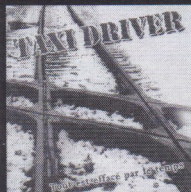
CAMERA SILENS
Réalité



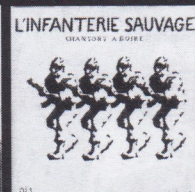
WARRIOR KIDS
Les Enfants De
L'Espoir



SNIX
Coeur De Lion



TAXI DRIVER
Tout Est Effacé Par
Le Temps



L'INFANTRIE SAUVAGE
Chansons À Boire

OK donc voilà toutes mes questions, merci encore d'avoir pris le temps d'avoir répondu, je te laisse le mot de la fin!

Merci d'avoir pensé à moi pour ton zine et bonne continuation. On prépare aussi un zine 100% papier avec Wattie, ça devrait s'appeler « Dans ta Gueule ! » A bientôt j'espère ! Continue à faire de la musique, c'était vraiment bon Last Crusade !

Those were all of my questions, thanks again for taking the time to answer, I leave you with the final word!

Thanks for thinking of me for the zine and good luck! Wattie and I are also doing a paper zine called "Dans Ta Gueule!" See you soon I hope! And keep doing bands, Last Crusade was really good!

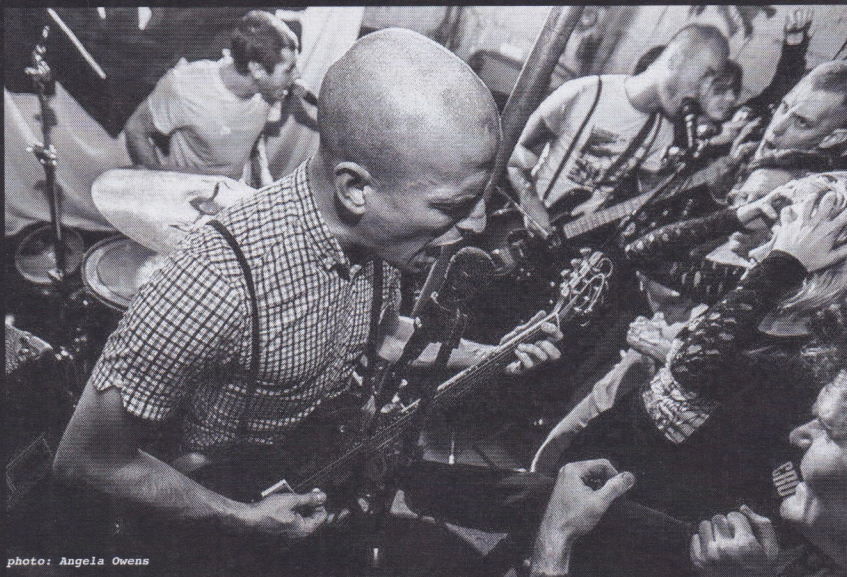
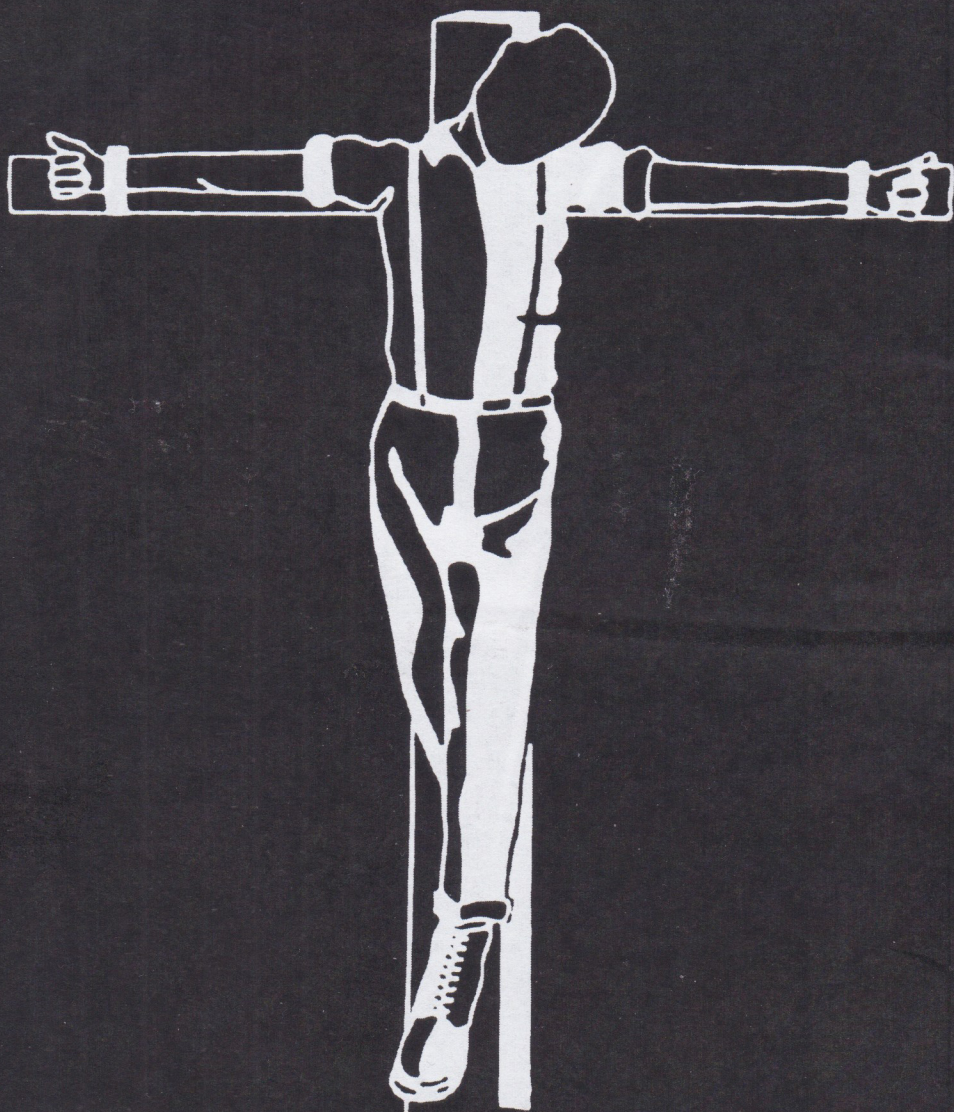


photo: Angela Owens



Sur leur montre il n'y a pas d'heure
Infatigables pour votre plus grand malheur...



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